

Amendments to The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): A method for updating programs to be used in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

    providing a network comprised of a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range relative to a plurality of second type computers having a respective extended function range;

    providing in said network, a service being defined as comprising update services providing an updated facilities version to be performed by the second type computers to said first type computers;

    selecting a first subgroup comprising at least one first type computer;

    selecting a second subgroup comprising at least one of the second type of computers for providing said updated facilities version exclusively to first type computers until a predetermined condition has occurred;

    issuing reboot requests exclusively from at least one of the second type of computers in said second subgroup to at least one of the first type of computers in said first subgroup; and

    responsive to said reboot request, sending boot messages from said at least one of the first type computer in said first subgroup to said at least one of said second type computer in the second subgroup for loading said at least one computer of the first subgroup with said updated facilities version during continued operation of the unselected plurality of first type computers with a former version means.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

testing at least one computer of the first subgroup with said updated facilities version during continued operation of the unselected plurality of first type computers; and

distributing said updated facilities version over the remaining plurality of unselected computers if a test result corresponds to a predetermined result scheme.

3. (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

distributing the updated facilities version among the second type of computers; and

preventing them from providing services as long as they are not equipped with the updated facilities version.

4. (original): The method according to claim 1 in which said first type of computers are embedded controllers and the service of the second type computers comprising the provision of code loads to the first type of computers.

5. (original): The method according to claim 1 for updating programs in an enterprise network.

6. (original): The method according to claim 1 for updating software of embedded controllers in an enterprise network.

7. (original): The method according to the claim 1 for updating software of embedded controllers in a computer-controlled industry plant.

8. (previously presented): An apparatus for updating programs to be used in a network comprising a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range relative to a plurality of second type computers having a respective extended function range, a service being defined as comprising update services providing an updated facilities version to be performed by the second type computers to said first type computers, the apparatus comprising:

a first selector selecting a first subgroup comprising at least one first type computer;

a second selector selecting a second subgroup comprising at least one of the second type of computers for providing said updated facilities version exclusively to first type computers until a predetermined condition has occurred;

a requester in at least one of the second type of computers in said second subgroup issuing reboot requests exclusively from said at least one of the second type of computers in said second subgroup to at least one of the first type of computers in said first subgroup; and

responsive to said reboot request, a loader sending boot messages from said at least one of the first type computer in said first subgroup to said at least one of said second type computer in the second subgroup for loading said at least one computer of the first subgroup with said updated facilities version during continued operation of the unselected plurality of first type computers with a former version means.

9. (original): The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a tester testing at least one computer of the first subgroup with said updated facilities version during continued operation of the unselected plurality of first type computers; and

a distributor distributing said updated facilities version over the remaining plurality of unselected computers if a test result corresponds to a predetermined result scheme.

10. (original): The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a distributor distributing the updated facilities version among the second type of computers; and

preventing means for preventing them from providing services as long as they are not equipped with the updated facilities version.

11. (original): The apparatus according to claim 8 in which said first type of computers are embedded controllers and the service of the second type computers comprising the provision of code loads to the first type of computers.

12. (original): The apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising means for updating programs in an enterprise network.

13. (original): The apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising means for updating software of embedded controllers in an enterprise network.

14. (original): The apparatus according to the claim 8 further comprising means for updating software of embedded controllers in a computer-controlled industry plant.

15. (previously presented): A program product usable for updating programs to be used in a network comprising a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range relative to a plurality of second type computers having a respective extended function range, a service being defined as comprising update services providing an updated facilities version to be performed by the second type computers to said first type computers, said program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having recorded thereon computer readable program code means for performing the method comprising:

selecting a first subgroup comprising at least one first type computer;

selecting a second subgroup comprising at least one of the second type of computers for providing said updated facilities version exclusively to first type computers until a predetermined condition has occurred;

issuing reboot requests exclusively from at least one of the second type of computers in said second subgroup to at least one of the first type of computers in said first subgroup; and

responsive to said reboot request, sending boot messages from said at least one of the first type computer in said first subgroup to said at least one of said second type computer in the second subgroup for loading said at least one computer of the first subgroup with said updated facilities version during continued operation of the unselected plurality of first type computers with a former version means.

16. (original): The program product according to claim 15, wherein said method further comprises:

testing at least one computer of the first subgroup with said updated facilities version during continued operation of the unselected plurality of first type computers; and

distributing said updated facilities version over the remaining plurality of unselected computers if a test result corresponds to a predetermined result scheme.

17. (original): The program product according to claim 15 wherein said method further comprises:

distributing the updated facilities version among the second type of computers; and

preventing them from providing services as long as they are not equipped with the updated facilities version.

18. (original): The program product according to claim 15 in which said first type of computers are embedded controllers and the service of the second type computers comprising the provision of code loads to the first type of computers.

19. (original): The program product according to claim 15 for updating programs in an enterprise network.

20. (original): The program product according to claim 15 for updating software of embedded controllers in an enterprise network.

21. (original): The program product according to the claim 15 for updating software of embedded controllers in a computer-controlled industry plant.